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TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

EYES ONLY

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TOP SECRET SENSITIVE 160925Z SEP 72 VIA CAS CHANNELS (BUNKER)
FROM: AMBASSADOR BUNKER SAIGON 0158
TO: THE WHITE HOUSE, EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER
REF: WHS 2162

1. THANK YOU FOR REFERENCED MESSAGE, BY LONG ODDS THE MOST INTERESTING TO COME OUT OF THESE MEETINGS. I AGREE THAT THEY MUST BE HURTING. DO YOU THINK, ALSO, READING THE POLLS HAS MADE THEM LESS INTRANSIGENT, THAT COMING TO SOME ACCOMMODATION NOW IS BETTER THAN THE PROSPECT OF FOUR MORE TOUGH YEARS?
2. I ASKED TO SEE THIEU TODAY, BUT FIND THAT HE IS TIED UP IN A LONG CABINET MEETING AND IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING OUT TWO MORE DECREE LAWS. I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT TO SEE HIM AT 0930 TOMORROW. I WILL IMPRESS ON HIM THE POINTS MADE IN YOUR PARAGRAPH 7 WITH WHICH I FULLY AGREE. I THINK WE HAVE BEEN UNDERSTANDING AND VERY FOREBEARING IN DEFERRING TO HIS VIEWS AND I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD NOW BE FIRM IN MAKING CLEAR THAT WE ALSO HAVE IMPERATIVES.
3. THIEU INFORMED ME YESTERDAY THAT HE WOULD HAVE A LETTER FOR THE PRESIDENT TODAY, AND NHA HAS JUST DELIVERED IT TO ME. I AM TRANSMITTING IT IN THE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MESSAGE. YOU WILL NOTE AGAIN HIS CONCERN OVER THE THREE-COMPONENT FORMULA WHETHER IT IS IN A GOVERNMENT OR UNDER ANY OTHER FORM SUCH AS THE CNR. I HAVE TRIED TO EXPLAIN MANY TIMES THAT THE CNR IS NOT A GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE GVN POSSESSES AMPLE SAFEGUARDS IN ITS VETOES ALL ALONG THE LINE. I HAVE ALSO EXPLAINED MANY TIMES THE RATIONALE OF OUR GAME PLAN IN ENABLING US TO CARRY THROUGH TO NOVEMBER. IT IS APPARENT ALSO, AS I MENTIONED IN MY LAST MESSAGE, THAT THE PRG'S SEPTEMBER 11 STATEMENT SERVED TO CONFIRM AND STRENGTHEN THIEU'S APPREHENSIONS. THERE HAS BEEN A CONSTANT RADIO AND PRESS OUTCRY AGAINST IT EVER SINCE IT WAS ISSUED.
4. CERTAINLY THIS LAST MEETING IS THE MOST ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT YET - YOUR PATIENCE AND PERSISTENCE SEEM TO BE PAYING OFF AND I SEND CONGRATULATIONS AND WARMEST REGARDS.

State Dept. review completed

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

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